

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07

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PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJ: EC PARLIAMENTARIAN REQUESTS COMMISSION INQUIRY

ON ALLEGED IMPORTS OF CALIFORNIAN BEAUJOLAIS

1. IN A WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE EC COMMISSION, MR. WILLY HAS QUERIED THE COMMISSION CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION OF A QUOTE SPURIOUS BEAUJOLAIS WINE UNQUOTE PRODUCED IN CALIFORNIA WITH LABELS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO BEAUJOLAIS VINTAGES PRODUCED IN THE EC. SUCH WINES WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE PARLIAMENTARIAN, HAVE BEEN MARKETED IN THE U.K. FOR SOME YEARS, ARE NOW ALSO ENTERING BELGIAN MARKET. IN VIEW OF THE CONFUSION CAUSED BY THE INABILITY OF CONSUMERS TO DISTINGUISH THESE IMPORTS FROM REAL BEAUJOLAIS, THE PARLIAMENTARIAN ASKS WHETHER THE COMMISSION COULD SET UP AN ENQUIRY CONCERNING THIS MATTER AND INFORM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIALS IN CALIFORNIA CONCERNING SUCH

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UNFAIR COMPETITION.

2. ANSWERING THE PARLIAMENTARIAN'S QUESTION, THE COMMISSION'S WRITTEN OPINION STATES THAT THE MARKETING IN THE COMMUNITY OF AN AMERICAN WINE USING THE DESIGNATION QUOTE BEAUJOLAIS UNQUOTE CONSTITUTES AN INFRINGEMENT OF EC WINE REGULATIONS (SPECIFICALLY ARTICLE 12 (3) OF REGULATION NO. 817/70, AND

ARTICLES 30 AND 31 OF REGULATION NO. 2133/74.) THE COMMISSION NOTES THAT IT IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILS ON THE MATTER AND THAT AN INQUIRY WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN THE MEMBER STATES CONCERNED. FURTHER, THE COMMISSION SAID IT WOULD REMIND AMERICAN AUTHORITIES OF THE OBJECTIONS ALREADY MADE REGARDING THE USE OF COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS.

3. FOLLOWING SOME INITIAL INQUIRIES OF WINE CONTACTS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF AMERICAN WINES, AGATT OFFICES IN BOTH THE U.K. AND BELGIUM HAVE FOUND NO BASIS FOR RECENT ALLEGATIONS BY LUXEMBOURG PARLIAMENTARIAN. COMMISSION OFFICIALS AS WELL INDICATE THAT THEY HAVE THUS FAR COME UP WITH NO CONCRETE INFORMATION ON THIS SPECIFIC ALLEGATION.HINTON

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Message Attributes

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